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Comments on Higher Education in the USSR by  
Minister Vyacheslav Yelyutin

1. Minister Yelyutin's report is a valuable but slanted pedagogical survey mainly useful for background or reference purposes. The index is valuable for its facts on Universities. Minister Yelyutin makes no reference to PI in his survey. He writes in an optimistic vein emphasizing Russian achievements and prospects as a form of educational propaganda. It is suggested that this brochure be retained in the PIC Library for its factual data.

Professor Zill of the Dresden Technical High School writing in 1959 Vermessungstechnik (abstract available on request) on surveying education in East Germany, takes a very critical view of students, curriculums, and scholastic records. He sees only a few students of the many entering, reaching the PhD degree after severe trials and careful political indoctrination. Similar views have been occasionally expressed by Soviet geographic professors in the professional journals and in this attitude they vary from Minister Yelyutin.

2. A. G. Isachenko reported (All Union Geographical Society, Bulletin Vol. 91, No. 6, p. 564-568, Nov.-Dec. 1959) on the IV All Union Conference on Regional Study, held at Riga 17-26 August 1959. Isachenko did not mention a report to the conference by a committee which was supposed to report on the increase use of aerial photography. Perhaps other reporters of the conference will subsequently mention such a committee report. Resolution 9 of the conference recommends to the Presidium of the All Union Geographical Society that all Universities organize continuous physiographic research, making wide use of aerial photography services and to include in the geographic department a laboratory for aerial methods. If the Soviet Army is reduced in size and the MVB abolished, the Universities may become places of employment for displaced Russian PI's while at the same time forming a valuable reserve corps of trained personnel for ready use in national emergencies.

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